

MULTIMEDIA



UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2015/2016

PEN 0065 - ACADEMIC ENGLISH

(All sections / Groups)

12 OCTOBER 2015

9.00 a.m – 11.00 a.m

(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **6 printed pages with 3 sections** only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in Sections A, B and C.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the four reading texts, and answer the questions for each text in complete sentences.

Text 1

Concussions are brain injuries that occur when a person receives a blow to the head, face, or neck. Recent studies suggest that people who suffer multiple concussions are at a significant risk for developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disorder that causes a variety of dangerous mental and emotional problems to arise weeks, months, or even years after the initial injury. In extreme cases, people suffering from CTE have even committed suicide or homicide. The majority of people who develop these issues are athletes who participate in popular high-impact sports, especially American football. Although both new sports regulations and improvements in helmet technology can help protect players, the sports media and fans alike bear some of the responsibility for reducing the incidence of these devastating injuries.

In response to the growing understanding of this danger, the National Football League (NFL) has revised its safety regulations. Players who have suffered a head injury on the field must undergo a "concussion sideline assessment", a series of mental and physical fitness tests, before being allowed back in the game. In an effort to diminish the amount of head and neck injuries on the field, NFL officials have begun enforcing stricter penalty calls for helmet-to-helmet contact, leading with the head, and hitting a defenceless player. There is hope that these new regulations, coupled with advances in helmet design, will reduce the number of concussions player endure, and thus curb the number of CTE cases.

Perhaps the most important factor in reducing the number of traumatic brain injuries, however, lies not with the players, the coaches, or the administrators, but with the media and fans. Sports media producers have become accustomed to showcasing the most aggressive tackles and the most intense plays. NFL broadcasts often replay especially violent collisions, while the commentators marvel at the physical prowess of the players involved. Some sports programs even feature weekly countdowns of the hardest hits. When the media exalts such hazardous behavior, professionals are rewarded for injuring each other on the field. Announcers, commentators, television producers, and sportswriters should engage in a collective effort to cease glorifying brutal plays. In turn, fans should stop expecting their favourite players to put their lives on the line for the purposes of entertainment. Players must stop being encouraged to trade their careers, health, happiness, and their lives for the sake of a game.

Adapted from Read Theory LLC. (2012). Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. Retrieved from http://www.englishforeveryone.org/PDFs/11_Chronic_Traumatic_Encephalopathy_Free_Sample.pdf

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- a) Choose the best option: (1 mark)
The author apparently believes that _____.
A. fans share some of the blame for athletes' injuries that may cause CTE
B. young people should not be encouraged to play football due to CTE risks
C. NFL officials have not thoroughly implemented stricter safety regulations
D. doctors need to do more research about the potential long-term effects of CTE
- b) State TRUE or FALSE for the following statements: (1 mark)
i) NFL officials have done nothing to address the problem of CTE.
ii) Scientists have established a correlation between players who shoot themselves and others and the onset of CTE.
- c) What is the main idea of paragraph 2? (1 mark)
- d) How does media contribute to CTE cases among football players? (2 marks)
- e) Between lines 25–30, find the best **antonym** (one word) for the word "criticizes". (1 mark)

Text 2

The last speaker of an ancient language in India's Andaman Islands has died at the age of about 85, a leading linguist has told the BBC. The death of the woman, Boa Senior, was highly significant because one of the world's oldest languages, Bo, had come to an end, Professor Anvita Abbi said. An estimated 7,000 languages are being spoken around the world. But that number is expected to shrink rapidly in the coming decades. In 1992 a prominent US linguist stunned the academic world by predicting that by the year 2100, 90% of the world's languages would have ceased to exist. 1 5

For linguists like Claude Hagege, languages are not simply a collection of words. They are living, breathing organisms holding the connections and associations that define a culture. When a language becomes extinct, the culture in which it lived is lost too. 10

The value of language as a cultural artefact is difficult to *dispute*, but is it actually realistic to ask small communities to retain their culture? One linguist, Professor Salikoko Mufwene, of the University of Chicago, has argued that the social and economic conditions among some groups of speakers "have changed to points of no return". 15

As cultures evolve, he argues, groups often naturally shift their language use. Asking them to hold onto languages they no longer want is more for the linguists' sake than for the communities themselves.

Ethnologue editor Paul Lewis, however, argues that the stakes are much higher and can be tragic. Because of the close links between language and identity, if people begin to think of their language as useless, they see their identity as such as well. *This* 20

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leads to social disruption, depression, suicide and drug use, he says. And as parents no longer transmit language to their children, the connection between children and grandparents is broken and traditional values are lost. 25

"There is a social and cultural ache that remains, where people for generations realize they have lost something," he says.

What no-one disputes is that the *demise* of languages is not always the fault of worldwide languages like English. An increasing number of communities are giving up their language by their own choice, says Claude Hagege. Many believe that their languages have no future and that their children will not acquire a professional qualification if they teach them tribal languages. 30

"We can do nothing when the abandonment of a language corresponds to the will of a population," he says.

Adapted from Coll, T. (2009). The death of language? Retrieved from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8311000/8311069.stm>

- a) State TRUE or FALSE for the following statement; (½ mark)
Social and economic circumstances are two factors that influence language death.
- b) What does the word 'This' in line 22 refer to? (1 mark)
- c) Describe how language death occurs. (1½mark)
- d) Provide a word or a phrase that best defines each of the following words; (2 marks)
 - i. dispute (line 12)
 - ii. demise (line 28)
- e) How does Paul Lewis feel about language death? State words or phrases (2 marks) from the text to support your answer.

Text 3

Walls and wall building have played a very important role in Chinese culture. 1
It is indeed a common mistake to perceive the Great Wall as a single architectural structure, and it would also be erroneous to assume that it was built during a single dynasty. For the building of the wall spanned the various dynasties, and each of these dynasties somehow contributed to the **refurbishing** and the construction of a wall, 5
whose foundations had been laid many centuries ago. It was during the fourth and third century B.C. that each warring state started building walls to protect their kingdoms, both against one another and against the northern nomads. Especially three of these states: the Ch'in, the Chao and the Yen, corresponding respectively to the modern provinces of Shensi, Shanzi and Hopei, over and above building walls that surrounded 10
their kingdoms, also laid the foundations on which Ch'in Shih Huang Di would build his first continuous Great Wall.

The role that the Great Wall played in the growth of Chinese economy was an important one. Throughout the centuries many settlements were established along the

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new border. The garrison troops were instructed to reclaim wasteland and to plant crops 15
on it. roads and canals were built, to mention just a few of the works carried out. All
these undertakings greatly helped to increase the country's trade and cultural exchanges
with many remote areas and also with the southern, central and western parts of Asia –
the formation of the Silk Route. Builders, garrisons, artisans, farmers and peasants left
behind a trail of objects, including inscribed tablets, household articles, and written 20
work, which have become extremely valuable archaeological evidence to the study of
defence institutions of the Great Wall and the everyday life of these people who lived
and died along the wall.

Adapted from Great Wall. (2014). Retrieved from <http://au-piranha-tondeur.blogspot.com/2006/05/great-wall-of-china-on-walls-in.html>

- a) "...somehow contributed to the **refurbishing** and the construction of a (1 mark)
wall, whose foundations had been laid many centuries ago" (line 5).
Provide a **synonym** for the word "**refurbishing**".
- b) State TRUE or FALSE for the following statements: (1 mark)
i) The Great Wall was built during a single dynasty.
ii) It was during the fourth and third century B.C. that the Great wall was
constructed as a continuous structure.
- c) The Great Wall contributed to the development of the Chinese economy (3 marks)
and trade. State the three contributing factors as mentioned in the article
above.

Text 4

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is awarded every year for a novel written by 1
a writer from the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland and it aims to represent the
very best in **contemporary** fiction. The prize was originally called the Booker-
McConnell Prize, which was the name of the company that sponsored it, though it was
better-known as simply the 'Booker Prize'. In 2002, the Man Group became the 5
sponsor and they chose the new name, keeping 'Booker'.

Publishers can submit books for consideration for the prize, but the judges can
also ask for books to be submitted they think should be included. Firstly, the Advisory
Committee give advice if there have been any changes to the rules for the prize and
selects the people who will judge the books. The judging panel changes every year and 10
usually a person is only a judge once.

Great efforts are made to ensure that the judging panel is balanced in terms of
gender and professions within the industry, so that a writer, a critic, an editor and an
academic are chosen along with a well-known person from wider society. However,
when the panel of judges has been finalized, they are left to make their own decisions 15
without any further involvement or interference from the prize sponsor.

The Man Booker judges include critics, writers and academics to maintain the
consistent quality of the prize and its influence is such that the winner will almost

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certainly see the sales increase considerably, in addition to the £50,000 that comes with the prize.

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2015 is the 47th year of the prize, which was launched in 1969. The 2015 judging panel will be looking for the best novel of the year, selected from entries published in the UK between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015.

Following a change in the rules introduced in 2014, the prize is now open to novels by writers of any nationality, published in the UK and originally written in English. Last year 154 books were submitted, of which 44 titles were by authors who were eligible under the new rule changes.

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Adapted from The Booker Prize. (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jun/15/100>

- a) "... aims to represent the very best in **contemporary** fiction" (line 3). (1 mark)
Provide an **antonym** for the word "**contemporary**".
- b) What is the aim of the 'The Man Booker Prize For Fiction'? (1 mark)
- c) Briefly explain the process, before the Prize is awarded? (3 marks)
- d) In the last paragraph, the writer mentions a significant change in the rules. (2 marks)
In your own words, state the changes in the rules.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Question 1: Transitions (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable transition.

Example: (0) In spite of all available information about nutrition in schools, hospitals, and Internet, overeating is still a problem.

The main causes of obesity are the decreased level of nutrients intake, and sedentary lifestyle. (0) In spite of all available information about nutrition in schools, hospitals, and Internet, overeating is still a problem. For example, the intake of fast food meals tripled between 2000 and 2011, and calorie levels magnified four times during the same period.

Optimal nutrition is important on the healthy food agenda (a)_____ proper nutrition can defend our bodies from harmful diseases. Our bodies need a well-balanced diet for energy and nourishment that are necessary to lead normal life, and to keep fit. An unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, (b)_____, increase our chances of getting heart disease, cancer, stroke, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, breathing problems, arthritis, gallbladder disease, and osteoarthritis.

Right nutrition helps us to achieve health and reduce the risks of diseases, (c)_____, heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis. (d)_____, nutritional therapy may also be the treatment for Parkinson's disease. Studies have proved that the importance of nutrition regulate humans health. Nowadays, people are making changes in their lifestyle by adding proper nutrition in their diets. Understanding sufficient

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nutrition as a component of nutrient metabolism helps us to control and maintain proper health condition. (e)_____, it is significant to understand the importance of nutrition in our dietary intake in order to be healthy.

Adapted from Nutrition. (2013). Retrieved from http://www.custom-essays.org/examples/Child_Obesity_Essay.html

Question 2: Modal Verbs (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable modal verb.

Example: Euthanasia or "mercy killing" (0) can be practiced by commission, which is illegal, or by omission, which is not.

Euthanasia or "mercy killing" (0) can be practiced by commission, which is illegal, or by omission, which is not. A doctor cannot be punished for intentionally neglecting to administer some remedy or stimulant which (a)_____ prolong life, although he may be accused of incompetence and malpractice.

The present situation is utterly unfair to the individual physician who believes that the relief of suffering is one of his principal duties. Many medical practitioners undoubtedly resort to euthanasia, but since they do so secretly it is impossible to say how many. They feel compelled to commit a technical "murder" even though they (b)_____ bear the whole responsibility. That is the unfair part.

Bigots and sticklers for legal technicalities (c)_____ always try to prevent or punish humanitarian action by an individual physician. Since the decision rests with him alone, the doctor will rarely ask for the consent of either the patient or the relatives. The mercy killing is therefore done furtively, when it (d)_____ be done candidly, serenely, and lawfully.

The contention that a seemingly incurable condition (e)_____ some day be cured by a new medical discovery hardly holds water. How can the hopeless cancer victim or the imbecile child of today benefit by a discovery of tomorrow? The laws regulating euthanasia must of course be flexible, and requirements based on present knowledge may be changed in the future.

Adapted from Euthanasia. (2014). Retrieved from <http://www.thenation.com/article/euthanasia-pro-and-con#>

SECTION C: WRITING [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Write a process essay of **not less than 350** words based on the information given below. You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this question.

In Confucian philosophy, filial piety outlines the way in which family members should interact with each other. For young family members, this includes respecting elders, obeying them, loving them, and taking care of them as they age. Suggest ways to care for elderly parents.

End of Paper